

Dear John,

This seeking of information by 'megaphone' and copying-in of many members is quite unnecessary especially when you have regular meetings with officers and officers have updated staff at key milestones.

Regarding this request, have you pursued the proper and first port of call of i.e. sought clarification from the relevant officers and is my intervention really needed? If so, please e-mail me the times of those requests directly, I'm aware some colleagues do not wish to be included in this correspondence. If you have not received a clear response and have allowed a reasonable time for a response then I will intervene.

My previous reply regarding the status of joint venture discussions was clear and I have nothing to add to it.

Regarding wider discussion, the scrutiny meeting last week dealt with a member's item regarding joint ventures in the manner it deemed appropriate and the position was again outlined. It was for the members present to decide what questions to ask.

Additionally, there will be scrutiny of the proposal and I have also asked for group briefings so that members are fully informed.

Kind regards,

Cllr Daniel Thomas

Finchley Church End Ward

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance

London Borough of Barnet

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**From:** John Burgess

**To:** Burgess, John (Unison); Thomas, Daniel Cllr Conservative; Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative

**Cc:** [I.butterfield@unison.co.uk](mailto:I.butterfield@unison.co.uk); Ioannidis, Cllr Andreas Labour; Brodtkin, Cllr Alex Labour; Campbell, Cllr Anita Labour; Cornelius, Cllr Alison Conservative; Finn, Cllr Anthony Conservative; Harper, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Hutton, Cllr Anne Labour; Moore, Cllr Alison Labour; Schneiderman, Cllr Alan Labour; Slocombe, Cllr Agnes Labour; Sodha, Cllr Ansuya Labour; Strongolou, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Tambourides, Cllr Andreas Conservative; Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative; Evangeli, Cllr Barry Conservative; Gordon, Cllr Brian Conservative; Perry, Cllr Bridget Conservative; Rawlings, Cllr Barry Labour; Salinger, Cllr Brian Conservative; Schama, Cllr Brian Conservative; Farrier Cllr Claire Labour; OMacaulay, Cllr Charlie Labour; Rogers, Cllr Colin Labour; Salinger, Cllr Catherine Conservative; Longstaff, Cllr David Conservative; Seal, Cllr Daniel Conservative; Yawitch, Cllr Darrel Conservative; Greenspan, Cllr Eva Conservative; Cooke, Cllr Geoffrey Labour; Johnson, Cllr Geoffrey Labour

**Sent:** Tue Sep 25 10:59:37 2012

**Subject:** RE: Is the Council recommending a Joint Venture or a Strategic Partnership for DRS ?

Hi Dan

I continue to be approached by members working in DRS to clarify what is going on with this One Barnet project as they are still being informed that the Bidders are expected to submit a Joint Venture service delivery model **not** a strategic Outsourcing model.

Unless I hear otherwise I can only conclude that the Bidders have been briefed by senior officers involved with the competitive dialogue that the council is expecting them to submit **only** a Joint venture service delivery model as their final bid.

As you quite rightly point out councillors will decide. However in this case, members of the Cabinet Committee will be making a decision about which Joint venture solution is best for Barnet. Therefore, last week an opportunity was lost for Overview & Scrutiny Committee to discuss Joint Ventures. I trust an opportunity for this discussion will be made available at the earliest opportunity as agreed in the meeting last week.

Best wishes  
John

**From:** John Burgess

**Sent:** 23 September 2012 13:46

**To:** 'Thomas, Daniel Cllr Conservative'; Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative

**Cc:** [j.butterfield@unison.co.uk](mailto:j.butterfield@unison.co.uk); Ioannidis, Cllr Andreas Labour; Brodtkin, Cllr Alex Labour; Campbell, Cllr Anita Labour; Cornelius, Cllr Alison Conservative; Finn, Cllr Anthony Conservative; Harper, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Hutton, Cllr Anne Labour; Moore, Cllr Alison Labour; Schneiderman, Cllr Alan Labour; Slocombe, Cllr Agnes Labour; Sodha, Cllr Ansuya Labour; Strongolou, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Tambourides, Cllr Andreas Conservative; Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative; Evangeli, Cllr Barry Conservative; Gordon, Cllr Brian Conservative; Perry, Cllr Bridget Conservative; Rawlings, Cllr Barry Labour; Salinger, Cllr Brian Conservative; Schama, Cllr Brian Conservative; Farrier Cllr Claire Labour; OMacaulay, Cllr Charlie Labour; Rogers, Cllr Colin Labour; Salinger, Cllr Catherine Conservative; Longstaff, Cllr David Conservative; Seal, Cllr Daniel Conservative; Yawitch, Cllr Darrel Conservative; Greenspan, Cllr Eva Conservative; Cooke, Cllr Geoffrey Labour; Johnson, Cllr Geoffrey Labour

**Subject:** RE: Is the Council recommending a Joint Venture or a Strategic Partnership for DRS ?

**Importance:** High

Hi Dan

I am genuinely trying to understand what is going on. In response to what you have said is it your understanding that the council is asking the Bidders to submit two different solutions one for a JV and one for a straight contract?

Finally for the sake of transparency can you ensure that senior officers provide UNISON with a copy of the procedure and the basis on which officers will evaluate bids in order to make a final recommendation to members? All of this will have been predetermined and made clear in the contract documentation and should not be a matter of commercial confidentiality.

Best wishes  
John

**From:** Thomas, Daniel Cllr Conservative [<mailto:Cllr.Thomas@Barnet.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 21 September 2012 12:41

**To:** John Burgess; Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative

**Cc:** [j.butterfield@unison.co.uk](mailto:j.butterfield@unison.co.uk); Ioannidis, Cllr Andreas Labour; Brodtkin, Cllr Alex Labour; Campbell, Cllr Anita Labour; Cornelius, Cllr Alison Conservative; Finn, Cllr Anthony Conservative; Harper, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Hutton, Cllr Anne Labour; Moore, Cllr Alison Labour; Schneiderman, Cllr Alan Labour; Slocombe, Cllr Agnes Labour; Sodha, Cllr Ansuya Labour; Strongolou, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Tambourides, Cllr Andreas Conservative; Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative; Evangeli, Cllr Barry Conservative; Gordon, Cllr Brian Conservative; Perry, Cllr Bridget Conservative; Rawlings, Cllr Barry Labour; Salinger, Cllr Brian Conservative; Schama, Cllr Brian Conservative; Farrier Cllr Claire

Labour; OMacauley, Cllr Charlie Labour; Rogers, Cllr Colin Labour; Salinger, Cllr Catherine Conservative; Longstaff, Cllr David Conservative; Seal, Cllr Daniel Conservative; Yawitch, Cllr Darrel Conservative; Greenspan, Cllr Eva Conservative; Cooke, Cllr Geoffrey Labour; Johnson, Cllr Geoffrey Labour

**Subject:** Re: Is the Council recommending a Joint Venture or a Strategic Partnership for DRS ?

Dear John,

As I'm quoted in this I feel compelled to respond.

The position is quite clear.

The outcome of the competitive dialogue has not been presented to members therefore no formal recommendation has yet been made to us - that will happen in due course.

Officers, in an effort to keep staff and members updated, have confirmed that the dialogue is pursuing a joint venture option and at this stage that is the officers' preferred option. As you know, officers advise, members decide.

The Leader has stated he remains to be convinced about a JV and rightly so given that members have not yet seen a proposal.

This does not contradict my quote in the paper that I would not be surprised if a joint venture was the final outcome - it is one of only a few options when engaging the private sector to run services! I did not say a JV is definitely on the cards (although the paper in its commentary tried to imply that).

Kind regards,

Cllr Daniel Thomas

Finchley Church End Ward

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance

London Borough of Barnet

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**From:** John Burgess

**To:** Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative

**Cc:** Laura Butterfield ; Ioannidis, Cllr Andreas Labour; Brodtkin, Cllr Alex Labour; Campbell, Cllr Anita Labour; Cornelius, Cllr Alison Conservative; Finn, Cllr Anthony Conservative; Harper, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Hutton, Cllr Anne Labour; Moore, Cllr Alison Labour; Schneiderman, Cllr Alan Labour; Slocombe, Cllr Agnes Labour; Sodha, Cllr Ansuya Labour; Strongolou, Cllr Andrew Conservative; Tambourides, Cllr Andreas Conservative; Coleman, Cllr Brian Conservative; Evangeli, Cllr Barry Conservative; Gordon, Cllr Brian Conservative; Perry, Cllr Bridget Conservative; Rawlings, Cllr Barry Labour; Salinger, Cllr Brian Conservative; Schama, Cllr Brian Conservative; Farrier Cllr Claire Labour; OMacauley, Cllr Charlie Labour; Rogers, Cllr Colin Labour; Salinger, Cllr Catherine Conservative; Longstaff, Cllr David Conservative; Seal, Cllr Daniel Conservative; Thomas, Daniel Cllr Conservative; Yawitch, Cllr Darrel Conservative; Greenspan, Cllr Eva Conservative; Cooke, Cllr Geoffrey Labour; Johnson, Cllr Geoffrey Labour; Old, Cllr Graham Conservative; Sargeant, Cllr Gill Labour; Hart Cllr Helena Conservative; Rayner, Cllr Hugh Conservative; Cohen, Cllr Jack Liberal Democrat; Hart, Cllr John Conservative; Johnson, Cllr Julie Labour; Marshall, Cllr John Conservative; Scannell, Cllr Joan Conservative; Tambourides, Cllr Joanna Conservative; Tierney, Cllr Jim Labour; McGuirk, Cllr Kathy Labour; Rutter, Cllr Lisa Conservative; Braun, Cllr Maureen Conservative; Cohen, Cllr Melvin Conservative; Palmer, Cllr Monroe Liberal Democrat; Shooter, Cllr Mark Conservative; Coakley Webb, Cllr Pauline Labour; Cornelius, Cllr Richard Conservative; Houston, Ross Cllr Labour; Rams, Cllr Robert Conservative; Thompstone, Cllr Reuben Conservative; Turner, Cllr Rowan Conservative; Khatri, Cllr

Sury Conservative; Palmer, Cllr Susette Liberal Democrat; Rajput, Cllr Sachin Conservative; Sowerby, Cllr Stephen Conservative; Davey, Cllr Tom Conservative; Prentice, Cllr Wendy Conservative; Zubairi, Cllr Zakia Labour; Mittra, Cllr Arjun Labour

**Sent:** Fri Sep 21 11:39:33 2012

**Subject:** Is the Council recommending a Joint Venture or a Strategic Partnership for DRS ?

Dear Richard

As you know I attended the Special Meeting, Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee where I listened in amazement to the discussion as to whether a JV had been recommended. I could not believe what I hearing when the Chair asked if any of the councillors had seen the emails and no one admitted they had.

I am enclosing the emails attachments.

For some reason the councillors at the Special Meeting, Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee seem unaware of a series of events which has brought the issue of a Joint Venture to the attention of councillors, staff and residents. For the sake of **transparency** and equally important **scrutiny** I want to refer you back to August 2012 where a number of communications were issued:

1. "As a result **we** have decided **to form a Joint Venture organisation** with the successful bidder, which provides an effective basis on which the Council can benefit from these opportunities and at the same time it gives the Council greater rights of transparency and control."

**(Email communication sent to all staff in DRS 17 August 2012)**

**2. Barnet Press:** "However, Daniel Thomas, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, said that a **joint venture** had always been an option for the officers and would give the council more control over the DRS.

He pointed out that Barnet would be the first council to outsource its regulatory services and officers needed to be cautious. "We are talking about creating a new model for outsourcing," he said.

**"It doesn't surprise** me that the first vendor for this service would be a **shared organisation**. It gives the council **more control**."

**(Barnet Press 23 August 2012 <http://www.barnet-today.co.uk/news.cfm?id=29165&searchword=thomas>)**

### **3. "DRS Joint Venture proposal – Staff Update**

Following my DRS fortnightly email last week I have set out further details on the joint venture below:-

#### **What is the decision making process around the joint venture?**

The joint venture has been an option considered by the project Board over the last 2 years and has featured in the options appraisal and business case.

Although **initially** our preference was for a Strategic Partnership, **the JV** has developed as a progressively **more attractive option** following detailed discussions with bidders. As a result the project Board **recommended** to **Corporate Directors Group** that this be formally advanced in discussions with bidders and indeed is currently **our preferred option**.  
(Email communication sent to all DRS staff 24 August 2012)

4. On **23 August**, I attended a meeting with the DRS senior management. I specifically asked if the reports were true about the recommendation for a Joint Venture option. I was very clearly told the Council **was** recommending a Joint Venture model for service delivery.

At the Budget Overview & Scrutiny Committee 19 September 2012, Agenda Item 8 it was made very clear to all councillors that there was **no recommendation** for a Joint Venture. I was there and have reviewed the video footage very carefully, which is available to view here <http://youtu.be/JZRJllwfd0>

I left that meeting absolutely clear the Joint Venture issue was not being recommended and so informed my members of this decision.

Yesterday (20 September 2012) your staff were being informed by senior officers that the JV option is still on. Furthermore the IMPOWER consultant confirmed that the Bidders have been told that their detailed solution must include a JV approach.

I now have no idea as to who or what to believe. I would welcome confirmation as to what option is being recommended to the Bidders.

Best wishes  
John Burgess  
Branch Secretary.  
**Barnet UNISON**